Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A medical assembly, comprising:

a tubular member having a proximal section, a distal section, and a lumen therethrough;

a first inflatable member coupled to the distal section of the tubular member, said first inflatable member being in fluid communication with a first fluid source;

a second inflatable member coupled to the distal section of the tubular member, said second inflatable member being in fluid communication with a second fluid source containing an acoustically transmissive material; and

at least one extracorporeal ultrasound transducer for ultrasonically placing and monitoring the tubular member within the body.

2. (Previously Presented) The medical assembly of claim 1, wherein the distal section of said tubular member includes a beveled tip.

3. (Previously Presented) The medical assembly of claim 1, wherein the tubular member has a curved shape.

4. (Previously Presented) The medical assembly of claim 1, further comprising an opening disposed through the wall of the tubular member.

5. (Previously Presented) The medical assembly of claim 4, wherein said opening is located between the first and second inflatable members.

6. (Previously Presented) The medical assembly of claim 1, further comprising a ventilation hub connected to the proximal section of said tubular member, said ventilation hub being in fluid communication with the ventilation lumen and an external ventilation unit.

7. (Previously Presented) The medical assembly of claim 1, wherein the second inflatable member is coupled to the tubular member at a location distal to the first inflatable member.

8. (Previously Presented) The medical assembly of claim 1, wherein the first inflatable member is configured to radially expand in a symmetrical manner about the tubular member.

9. (Previously Presented) The medical assembly of claim 1, wherein the second inflatable member is configured to expand in an asymmetrical manner about the tubular member.

10. (Previously Presented) The medical assembly of claim 1, wherein the second inflatable member is configured to expand in a symmetrical manner about the tubular member.

11. (Previously Presented) The medical assembly of claim 1, wherein the acoustically transmissive material comprises a balanced saline solution.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) The medical assembly of claim 1, further comprising an ultrasonic monitor capable of ultrasonically imaging the second inflatable member within the body.

14. (Previously Presented) The medical assembly of claim 13, wherein said ultrasonic monitor is adapted to ultrasonically image fluid flow within the second inflatable member using Doppler imaging.

15. (Previously Presented) The medical assembly of claim 1, wherein said tubular member is an endotracheal tube.

16. (Previously Presented) An endotracheal medical assembly, comprising:

a tubular member having a proximal section, a distal section, and a ventilation lumen therethrough;

a first inflatable member coupled to the distal section of the tubular member, said first inflatable member being in fluid communication with a first fluid source;

a second inflatable member coupled to the distal section of the tubular member, said second inflatable member being in fluid communication with a second fluid source containing an acoustically transmissive material; and

at least one extracorporeal ultrasound transducer for ultrasonically placing and monitoring the tubular member within the body.

17. (Previously Presented) The endotracheal medical assembly of claim 16, wherein the distal section of said tubular member includes a beveled tip.

18. (Previously Presented) The endotracheal medical assembly of claim 16, wherein the tubular member has a curved shape.

19. (Previously Presented) The endotracheal medical assembly of claim 16, further comprising a Murphy eye disposed through the wall of the tubular member.

20. (Previously Presented) The endotracheal medical assembly of claim 19, wherein said Murphy eye is located between the first and second inflatable members.

21. (Previously Presented) The endotracheal medical assembly of claim 16, further comprising a ventilation hub connected to the proximal section of the tubular member,

said ventilation hub being in fluid communication with the ventilation lumen and an external ventilation unit.

22. (Previously Presented) The endotracheal medical assembly of claim 16, wherein the second inflatable member is coupled to the tubular member at a location distal to the first inflatable member.

23. (Previously Presented) The endotracheal medical assembly of claim 16, wherein the first inflatable member is configured to radially expand in a symmetrical manner about the tubular member.

24. (Previously Presented) The endotracheal medical assembly of claim 16, wherein the second inflatable member is configured to expand in an asymmetrical manner about the tubular member.

25. (Previously Presented) The endotracheal medical assembly of claim 16, wherein the second inflatable member is configured to expand in a symmetrical manner about the tubular member.

26. (Previously Presented) The endotracheal medical assembly of claim 16, wherein the acoustically transmissive material comprises a balanced saline solution.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) The endotracheal medical assembly of claim 16, further comprising an ultrasonic monitor capable of ultrasonically imaging the second inflatable member within the body.

29. (Previously Presented) The endotracheal medical assembly of claim 28, wherein said ultrasonic monitor is adapted to ultrasonically image fluid flow within the second inflatable member using Doppler imaging.

30. (Previously Presented) An endotracheal medical assembly, comprising:

a tubular member having a proximal section, a distal section, and a ventilation lumen therethrough;

at least one inflatable member coupled to the distal section of the tubular member, said at least one inflatable member being in fluid communication with a fluid source containing an acoustically transmissive material; and

at least one extracorporeal ultrasound transducer configured to direct an ultrasonic beam through the skin and into said at least one inflatable member.

31-48 (Cancelled)

49. (Previously Presented) A medical assembly, comprising:

a tubular member insertable within the body, the tubular member having a proximal section, a distal section, and a lumen therethrough;

at least one inflatable member coupled to the distal section of the tubular member;

a means for inducing movement in the distal section of the tubular member;

at least one extracorporeal ultrasound transducer configured to direct an ultrasonic beam into the body; and

ultrasonic imaging means for visualizing the tubular member within the body.

50. (Previously Presented) The medical assembly of claim 49, wherein said means for inducing movement in the distal section of the tubular member includes an actuator.

51. (Previously Presented) The medical assembly of claim 50, wherein said actuator is coupled to the proximal end of the tubular member.

52. (Previously Presented) The medical assembly of claim 50, wherein said actuator is an inflatable cuff.

53. (Previously Presented) The medical assembly of claim 49, wherein said ultrasonic imaging means is configured to visualize the tubular member within the body using backscatter from said ultrasonic beam.

54. (Previously Presented) The medical assembly of claim 49, wherein said ultrasonic imaging means comprises an apparatus adapted to ultrasonically image the tubular member within the body using Doppler imaging.

55. (Previously Presented) A medical assembly, comprising:

a tubular member insertable within the body, the tubular member having a proximal section, a distal section, and a lumen therethrough;

at least one inflatable member coupled to the distal section of the tubular member;

an actuator coupled to the proximal section of the tubular member, said actuator adapted to induce movement in the distal section of the tubular member;

at least one extracorporeal ultrasound transducer configured to direct an ultrasonic beam into the body; and

ultrasonic imaging means for visualizing the tubular member within the body.